

2/25/2011 - WEEK IN REVIEW – FEDERAL COURT ACTIVITY

United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Indiana

Hammond, Indiana - The United States Attorney's Office announced:

Michael Cokes, Jr., 20, Jermaine E. Wells, 22, Darren Higgenbottom, 43, and Felicia Sallay, 35, all of Chicago, Illinois, were charged in an indictment unsealed on February 23, 2011 with one count of passing counterfeit \$100 bills in Illinois and Indiana. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the United States Secret Service. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randall Stewart.

Jamol Hardin, 38, of East Chicago, Indiana, was charged in an indictment returned on May 6, 2010 with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Hardin was previously convicted of manslaughter in 1995. Hardin appeared before Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich yesterday and was remanded into temporary custody of the United States Marshal's Service until his arraignment on March 1, 2011. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the East Chicago Police Department. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joshua Kolar.

Harold Pemberton III, 35, of East Chicago, Indiana, pled guilty before Chief Judge Philip Simon to count one of an indictment charging with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Pemberton was previously convicted of possession of a controlled substance in 2001 and 2002, and criminal damage to government property in 2002. Sentencing has been set for 5/26/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Padilla.

Stacy Simpson, 34, of DeMotte, Indiana, was sentenced by Senior Judge James Moody to 37 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of a superseding indictment charging her with conspiracy to manufacture and distribute five hundred (500) grams or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine in the case *US v Kasper et al.* This case was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Porter County Sheriff's Office, the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, the Valparaiso Police Department, the Kouts Police Department, and the Porter County Prosecutor's Office. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Nozick.

Anthony Dovichi, 48, of Cedar Lake, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to 41 months imprisonment and 4 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count six of an indictment charging him with possession with the intent to distribute 5 grams or more of crack cocaine. This case was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joshua Kolar.

Scott Becker, 44, of Lafayette, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen to counts one through four of an indictment charging him with mail fraud and wire fraud. Scott also pled guilty to count one of an information charging him with possession of child pornography. Sentencing has been set for 5/5/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations and the Kokomo Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jill Trumbull-Harris.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that a Complaint is merely an allegation and that all persons charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

South Bend, IN—The United States Attorney's Office announced:

Frank Willis, Jr., 25, of South Bend, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Jon DeGuilio to 51 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Willis has prior convictions for possession of cocaine and resisting law enforcement. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald Schmid.

James Schirf, 29, of Mishiwaka, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Robert Miller, Jr. to 24 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an indictment charging him with burglary of a controlled substance from a CVS pharmacy in Walkerton, Indiana. Schirf was also ordered to pay \$35,611.81 in restitution to CVS, and approximately \$5000.00 to the Walkerton Police Department. This case was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Walkerton Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Schaffer.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

Fort Wayne, IN - The United States Attorney's Office announced the following activity in federal court:

Andrew Hamilton, 30, of Auburn, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Theresa Springmann to 37 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to an indictment charging him with robbery of a controlled substance. Hamilton was also ordered to pay \$2394.00 in restitution. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Fort Wayne Police Department. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lesley Miller Lowery.

Tobby Steele, 34, of Churubusco, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Theresa Springmann to 15 months imprisonment and 1 year of supervised release after pleading guilty to an information charging him with filing a false tax return. This case was the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert Trgovich.

Gena Emerick, 45, of Bryan, Ohio, pled guilty before Magistrate Judge Roger Cosbey to an information charging her with misappropriation of Postal property while an employee of the United States Postal Service in Angola, Indiana. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lovita Morris King.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.